

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

SECOM-D-044

27 February 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] STAT
 SECOM Computer Security Subcommittee
FROM: [REDACTED] STAT
 Chairman
SUBJECT: Policy on Personal Computers in the Intelligence Community

1. As we discussed recently, I have been asked by the Intelligence Community Staff policy officer whether there is a Community security policy concerning "personal computers". At that time, you provided me some information on possible areas of vulnerability, but advised that policy on personal computers is currently made by individual agencies.

2. I feel constrained to provide as definitive an answer as possible to this query. Therefore, I request that you place this matter on the agenda of the Computer Security Subcommittee, with the objective of providing a report on the security status of personal computers. In addition to the matter of the distinction between personally-owned computers and the class of mini-computers called personal computers, the report should address the following:

- a. Do all member agencies have written regulations on the use of personally-owned or personal-sized computers? What are the significant similarities or differences in the guidance?
- b. Does the Subcommittee feel that the proliferation of these devices, the lack of controls, or the technical weaknesses of these systems present a threat significant enough to address as a special category of computer security? If so, please state in some detail the aspects which are particularly hazardous.
- c. What are the potential security vulnerabilities inherent in the use of personal computers?

- d. Based on the above, does the Subcommittee feel the need for a Community policy on "personal computers" to provide uniform protection for the intelligence stored or procesed thereon?

3. Your assistance in the matter is, as always, greatly appreciated.



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